

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended): An electrically conductive paste for connecting a p-type thermoelectric material made of a complex oxide to an electrically conductive substrate,  
the electrically conductive paste comprising:

(i) at least one powdery oxide selected from the group consisting of:

a complex oxide represented by the formula  $\text{Ca}_a\text{A}^1_b\text{Co}_c\text{A}^2_d\text{O}_e$  wherein  $\text{A}^1$  is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of [[Na,]] K, Li, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Pb, Sr, Ba, Al, and Bi;  $\text{A}^2$  is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Mo, W, Nb, and Ta;  $2.2 \leq a \leq 3.6$ ;  $0.3 \leq b \leq 0.8$ ;  $2 \leq c \leq 4.5$ ;  $0 \leq d \leq 2$ ; and  $8 \leq e \leq 10$ ; and

a complex oxide represented by the formula  $\text{Bi}_f\text{Pb}_g\text{M}^1_h\text{Co}_i\text{M}^2_j\text{O}_k$  wherein  $\text{M}^1$  is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Na, K, Li, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Pb, Ca, [[Sr,]] Ba, Al, Y, and lanthanoids;  $\text{M}^2$  is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Mo, W, Nb, and Ta;  $1.8 \leq f \leq 2.2$ ;  $0 \leq g \leq 0.4$ ;  $1.8 \leq h \leq 2.2$ ;  $1.6 \leq i \leq 2.2$ ;  $0 \leq j \leq 0.5$ ; and  $8 \leq k \leq 10$ ; and

(ii) at least one powdery electrically conductive metal selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum, and alloys containing at least one of these metals.

5. (Currently Amended): The electrically conductive paste for connecting a p-type thermoelectric material according to Claim 4, wherein the powdery oxide is at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

a complex oxide represented by the formula  $\text{Ca}_a\text{A}^1_b\text{Co}_4\text{O}_e$  wherein  $\text{A}^1$  is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of [[Na,]] K, Li, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Pb, Sr, Ba, Al, and Bi;  $2.2 \leq a \leq 3.6$ ;  $0.3 \leq b \leq 0.8$ ; and  $8 \leq e \leq 10$ ; and

a complex oxide represented by the formula  $\text{Bi}_f\text{Pb}_g\text{M}^1_h\text{Co}_2\text{O}_k$  wherein  $\text{M}^1$  is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of [[Sr,]] Ca, and Ba;  $1.8 \leq f \leq 2.2$ ;  $0 \leq g \leq 0.4$ ;  $1.8 \leq h \leq 2.2$ ; and  $8 \leq k \leq 10$ .

6. (Original): The electrically conductive paste for connecting a p-type thermoelectric material according to Claim 4, wherein the powdery oxide mentioned in (i) above is contained in an amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the powdery electrically conductive metal mentioned in (ii) above.

7. (Original): The electrically conductive paste for connecting a p-type thermoelectric material according to Claim 4, further comprising a glass ingredient and a resin ingredient.

8-18. (Cancelled).